

**Golf Commission Meeting  
April 26, 2010  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Don Espach, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Ron Dray; George Furkiotis; Dave Galla; Bruce Gerstman; Tony Johnson; Jim Steidlmayer; Jonathan Turk

**Members Absent:** None

Don Espach called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Review and approval of the Minutes:**

Review and approval of the Minutes of March 22, 2010 ... There was a motion made by Mr. Steidlmayer seconded by Mr. Galla to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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**Audience Participation:**

- Mrs. Kristine Miklus, representing the Don Miklus Foundation, updated the Commission on the status of several projects the organization is working on:
  - The Miklus Building Committee has been meeting to go over plans and obtain quotes to begin work on the old cart barn. To date, two quotes have been received with two more expected. The Committee will meet again to discuss the quotes and begin working in stages.
  - A business card design for the Foundation was shown to the Commission. As no objections were received, the cards will be ordered.
  - Mr. John Miklus, son of Don Miklus, will be designing a web site for the Foundation. Initial designs were passed to the Commission. The Commission also gave approval for a link from the Tashua Knolls Website to the Foundation website.
  - Plans and committees are being formed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Don Miklus Memorial Golf Tourney to be held on August 2, 2010. There will also be a mini golf event held at the Trumbull Public Library on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup> with a preview for adults on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - A banner was shown to the Commission announcing the “Future Home of the Miklus Indoor Training Center”. Permission was requested to hang the sign above the double doors on the old cart barn.

A motion was made by Mr. Dray; seconded by Johnson, to grant permission to the Don Miklus Foundation to hang a banner announcing “The Future Home of the Miklus Indoor Training Center” above the double doors of the old cart barn. Motion carried unanimously.

**Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):**

**Labor:**

- Director of Operations – Golf Course Properties (Hidalgo Nagashima); Mechanic (Rich Plaveck); Four full-time greensmen (Jeff Cook, Jerry Cook, Chris Gallant, Craig Romano)
- Eight part-time greensman (Hoeppner, Markaj, Kearney, Goodwin, DeFrancisco, Ebert, Oleyar, Valuzzo)

**Maintenance Department Outline:**

- The greens were aerated the beginning of April and are starting to heal. Although the recent warm weather is good for business, it slows the recovery process. The rain this week will wash in the remainder of the sand and the greens are expected to be in mid-season form in a few weeks.
- All tees on the Knolls were aerated, seeded, and fertilized last week.
- The fairways are in good shape and the bare spots will be seeded and topdressed.
- The maintenance department will now concentrate on seeding and aerifying secondary areas in the rough, along cart paths, and other thin areas to achieve the goal of 100% turf coverage in all playable areas.
- The returning part-time maintenance crew will concentrate their work on the bunkers. They will edge, weed, pick rocks, and fix the faces of the bunkers.
- The Glen tees and greens will be aerified next week. The overall condition of the Glen is good.
- The irrigation system is up and running. A 3-year project is being undertaken to replace the inside of all irrigation heads with new water saving 855s heads. These heads will save water through better and more uniform and predictable water distribution to minimize waste and reduce watering time. To minimize the cost of the project, the heads will be replaced on nine holes a year over the next three years. The first holes to convert heads will be those that have been identified as most problematic.

**Maintenance Department Follow Up:**

- Mr. Nagashima spoke with Mr. Jacques of Long Hill Tree regarding the ash trees on the course. The ash trees are being infected with European Ash Borer, which is migrating east. This disease is coupled with ash decline and it is estimated that all ash trees will die out in the next 10 – 20 years. There is no treatment available for the disease. Mr. Nagashima estimates that 10% of the trees on the course are ash. However, several ash trees are in focal areas on the course. The Greens Committee will discuss the situation and determine a program to best handle the situation.

- New spike cleaners will be installed at the clubhouse and will be similar to the previous ones. New frames are required and they will either be bought or made in-house.
- The drains have been completed and seeded. The big catch basin on #7 is awaiting a 24" grate.
- All wood on the bunkers that were sodded last year has been removed. The wood on #12 and #16 will be removed next and the bunkers opened. Mr. Steidlmayer asked about the wood on the practice green. Mr. Nagashima reported that it would stay in place to help stabilize the area.
- The lining on bunker #3 will be removed shortly.
- The area around the scoreboard has been dressed up and seeded. Additional supplies have been received to complete the project. Paint color will be matched to the clubhouse. The Greens Committee will look into the possibility of planting additional pine trees behind the scoreboard. When the pines mature, it should be possible to remove the split rail fence behind the scoreboard.
- Arrow Painting is scheduled to repaint the lines in both parking lots and the fire lane.
- Mr. Dray asked that some rocks on #6 be moved to allow access between for walkers and pull carts. As the area is fairly muddy, he also asked that wood chips be put down in the area as well.

#### **Green Committee (Owen Evans):**

- Mr. Evans handed out an extensive tracking list for Greens Committee projects. He asked that Commissioners read the list and contact the Committee with any questions. He also noted that many of the projects have been completed.

#### **Head Professional Report (Jon Janik):**

##### **Tournaments:**

- Deposits are still pending for the American Legion, the Wounded Warrior Project, and the Democratic Town Committee.
- The Brian Tvardzik Memorial will not be returning.
- The EWGA Tashua Glen League will begin on May 1.
- The Trumbull High Marching Band has booked a tournament on the Glen on Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM.

##### **Pro Shop:**

- Approximately 80% of this year's pre-booked merchandise has arrived and stocked in the pro shop.
- The first vendor demo day took place on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, with Callaway Golf. Despite cold temperatures, attendance was excellent. Nike is scheduled for a demo day on April 30<sup>th</sup> followed by PING on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Instructional Programs:**

- EWGA clinics have begun for Intermediate and Advanced Levels.
- The first ladies golf school was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> with nine attendees.
- Adult clinics began on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Junior programs began on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

- For the first time, a spring junior camp was held over school vacation with 15 participants.
- The girls LPGA program has begun as well with 168 girls registered this season.

#### **General Manager Report (Bobby Brown):**

##### **Golf Operations:**

- March 2010 rounds: 323 (Knolls – 207; Glen 116) vs. 760 in 2009
- March 2010 income: \$32,343 vs. \$52,686 in 2009 due to the weather
- April activity in rounds and cart usage is up due to the warm weather. Season IDs are on pace.
- Club Car is providing two gas utility carts in exchange for two electric carts, which have been problematic.

##### **Marketing:**

- Five ads ran in the Trumbull Times regarding season IDs.
- E-mail blasts continue to be the most cost effective way to get information out to our customer base.
- After a question by Mr. Evans, Mr. Galla will arrange to have marketing material regarding the course displayed at several People's Bank locations.

##### **Plant & Facility:**

- Mr. Brown met with Mr. Ray Lupkus, Town Engineer, to discuss specifications for the attic insulation.
- Mr. Brown met with Mr. Dimitri Paris, Parks Supervisor, to discuss the solar lighting panel at the bottom of Tashua Knolls Lane, which is still not working. They also discussed the sign at the bottom of Tashua Road, which has been missing since a car ran over it shortly after it was installed.
- United Alarm repaired the alarm pad in the new cart barn.
- Fairfield Sprinkler flooded the sprinkler system and repaired several small leaks in the pipes.
- Mr. Brown has done some preliminary investigation as to whether or not other local courses use a beverage cart. It was found that the majority of the courses do use a beverage cart with usage limited to summer and/or weekend afternoons. Mr. Brown will meet with Mr. Faustini, Concessionaire, to discuss his feelings regarding a beverage cart.

#### **House Committee (Tony Johnson):**

- The 15-ton air unit installed last April is freezing up. The problem was identified last Friday and Mr. Johnson is working with A&B, Trane, and Added Comfort to fix the problem. The potential cost of repairs could be \$2,000. Mr. Johnson will work with Town Engineers to determine responsibility for the problem.
- The Pro Shop air conditioner unit installed in 2007 was found to have a leak in the heating coil. The estimated repair cost is \$2,000 as well. Mr. Johnson stated that it was unusual that the heating coil would leak in a unit that is only three years old.

- Due to these unexpected costs, Mr. Johnson suggested we scrape and paint the overhead patio areas at the clubhouse. Although this is not a permanent solution, it would result in cost savings and improve the appearance temporarily.
- Mr. Johnson has been working to identify a priority list of improvements to the maintenance barns. It was felt that one of the first projects would be to vinyl side both buildings. Mr. Lupkus will be brought in first to determine the soundness of both buildings. Also, Mr. Nagashima's office is high on the priority list for improvements. The projects will begin in the new fiscal year.

**Finance (Dave Galla):**

- Due to the snowy, rainy weather, revenue through the end of March is down. However, the unusually warm April weather is resulting in increased revenue year to date.
- A meeting was held with the Town Council on March 25 to discuss our budget. After several brief questions, the golf course budget passed intact.

**Correspondence:**

- Mr. Brown received a letter from Mr. Jeff Maurutis of Milford requesting that the Commission consider implementing a "membership" package for out of town golfers. The Commission agreed to review its policy in the fall when it sets its rates and policies for the following season.

**Old Business:**

- None.

**New Business:**

- Mr. Janik brought up a safety issue regarding the driving range. He stated that on three occasions he has witnessed balls hit from the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway land on the hitting area of the driving range – one of them actually hitting a golfer. Mr. John Ponzio, Town Treasurer, suggested Mr. Janik contact Mr. John Marsillo, Director Public Works, to set up a meeting to discuss possible solutions to the problem.
- Mr. Espach also brought up a safety issue regarding the 10<sup>th</sup> tee. He stated he felt the pine trees did not extend far enough toward the driving range to prevent someone from being hit. Mr. Nagashima will look into the cost of planting additional pine trees.
- Mr. Espach informed the Commission that he has asked Mrs. Plumeau, Administrative Assistant, to work with Town Hall on the information regarding the Golf Commission on the Town website. Mr. Espach would like us to include contact information for the Golf Commissioners similar to what other Town Commissions include.

## **Executive Session**

A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter was made at 8:44 PM by Mr. Evans; seconded by Steidlmayer. Mr. John Ponzio, Town Treasurer, was asked to attend the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 PM was made by Mr. Evans; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer, to have Mr. Espach meet with Mr. Nagashima to present a proposed new contract. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM was made by Mr. Evans; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau  
Golf Commission Clerk